ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

FIFTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF—

WELLS CREEK

PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

—HELD WITH—

Red Hill Church, DeKalb County, Ala.,

October 5th, 6th and 7th, 1888.

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OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

A. GRAVES, Moderator.
J. P. FRANKLIN, Clerk.

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The Cause of a Reorganization of the Wills Creek Primitive Baptist Association

Which was constituted in 1836, and declared to be a Primitive Baptist Association in 1840. Her resolutions were as follows:

Article 26. That this Association will not fellowship any church or churches, nor hold them in union, who are engaged in supporting any Missionary, Bible, Tract, or Sunday School Union Societies, or advocate State Conventions or Theological schools, or any other society that has been or may hereafter be founded, under the pretense of circulating the Gospel of Jesus Christ; nor correspond with any other Association engaged in or supporting any of the above named institutions, they being without a "thus saith the Lord" for them.

In 1843 there was a query brought into the Association [illegible] of the churches, as follows: How shall we receive those who have gone off with the Missionary Baptists? Answer—By recantation. Secondly—How shall we receive those who have been received by Missionaries, since our separation from them? Answer—In the good old way, by experience and baptism.

From which resolutions and practice there has been a departure, the churches receiving members from other Baptists on what they call confession of faith without baptizing them, and some of the churches being unwilling to renounce the practice, and to return to former principles, caused a division of the Association.

Therefore we, a portion of the church of said Association, being unwilling to conform to the practice in which she has fallen, believing it to be unscriptural, and not according to primitive practice. Therefore, deeming it necessary to reorganize the Wills Creek Association upon former faith and practice, met with the Church at Macedonia, Jackson county, Friday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1880, at which time and place the Association was organized by the election of Elder J. B. Franklin, Moderator, T. M. K. Galloway, Clerk; and after transacting the business necessary to come before the body, adjourned to meet with the Church at Black Oak, Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1880.

PROCEEDINGS.

OCTOBER 5, 1888.

1. Elder J. S. Massey came forward, who was appointed to preach the introductory sermon, and preached from the following subject: "Take heed unto thyself, and the doctrine continue in them: for in so doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee."—1st Tim., 4th chap., 16th v.

2. Intermission of thirty minutes.

3. The messengers then convened at the house. Prayer by the Moderator.

4. Called for letters from the churches, which were read and received and the names of the delegates recorded. (See table.)

5. The Association then organized by electing A. G[illegible]s, Moderator, and J. B. Franklin, Clerk.

6. Ministers and brethren of our faith and order were invited to seats with us.

7. Opened the door for the reception of newly constituted churches.

8. Appointed a committee to arrange preaching during the Association, to-wit: David Carnes, E. B. Thomas, J. A. Walker, together with the delegates from Red Hill Church.

9. Appointed committee to arrange the business to come before the Association, to-wit: J. S. Massey and Wm. Oliver, with the Moderator and Clerk.

10. Appointed a committee on Finance: Brethren J. Harrison and T. C. Haynes.

11. Called for correspondence. None.

12. The Association then adjourned until Saturday morning at 8 o'clock.

SECOND DAY—SATURDAY MORNING, 8 O'CLOCK.

1. The Association met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. B. Franklin.

2. Called the roll.

3. Called for the report of the Committee on Arrangements.

The report was received and committee discharged. We adopted the regular order of business with the necessary amendments.

4. Called for the reading of the Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.

5. Invited ministers and brethren of our faith and order to seats with us

6. Our next union meeting to be held with Black Oak Church, DeKalb county, Alabama, commencing on Friday before the second Sunday in August, 1889.

7. Agreed that our next Association be held with Mt. Zion Church, DeKalb county, Alabama, three miles northwest of Lebanon, commencing on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1889.

8. Called for the Report on Finance. The committee report present contributions from the churches, $9.25; on hand, $9.05. Total, $18.30.

9. Elected Elder J. T. Perry to preach the next introductory sermon, and J. B. Franklin, alternate.

10. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.—It is agreed that we appoint J. T. Perry and J. B. Franklin to visit Pleasant Hill Church, which has not been represented for some time, and report at our next session the cause.

11. Moved and seconded that the Clerk be authorized to make a regular record of the reorganization from the meeting with Bethel Church, Marshall county, Alabama, in the year 1879 up to the meeting with Macedonia Church, Jackson county, Alabama, in July, 1880.

12. Agreed that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes, and that we have 200 copies struck. The remainder of contribution, if any, to be at the disposal of the Clerk.

13. The Association tender their thanks to Red Hill Church and vicinity for their kindness during the meeting.

14. The Association then, with some appropriate remarks from Brother J. T. Perry, and considerable enthusiasm or love to each other, adjourned to the time and place appointed.

May God bless the little band,
Persecuted throughout the land,
But joined together by a three-fold cord of love,
And travelling home to heaven above.

A. GRAVES, Moderator.

J. B. FRANKLIN, Clerk.

DECLARATION OF FAITH OF WILLS CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

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1. We believe in one only true and living God—the Father, Word and Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the fall of man, and that he is not able, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself therefrom.

4. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ imputed to them.

5. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace in Christ, and that God, according to His own foreknowledge, purpose and grace, chose His people in Christ before the foundation of the world, through sanctification of the Holy Spirit and belief of the truth.

6. We believe the saints will persevere in and be preserved by grace and never finally fall away nor be lo[st].

7. We believe that Baptism and the Sacrament of the Lord's supper and washing of the saint's feet are ordinances of divine worship; and the proper legal communicants, persons born of the Spirit and baptised by legal administrator, and the true scriptural mode of performance is to bury the body all over in water, and that true believers are the only fit subjects.

8. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinance of the Gospel except such as are legally baptised, called and ordained by laying on of hands and prayer by a Presbytery.

9. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, general judgment, that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the joys of the righteous eternal.

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RULES OF DECORUM BY WHICH THE ASSOCIATION IS TO BE GOVERNED.

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1. The members regularly chosen by the churches shall compose the Association.

2. The members thus chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, together with the state of the churches since their last representation.

3. The members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated the WILLS CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

4. The Association shall have a Moderator and a Clerk, chosen by the suffrages of the members present by ballot, and the person to preach the Introductory sermon.

5. Any church belonging to the Association shall be entitled to three representatives, and no more.

6. Any church desiring admittance into this Association shall petition by letter and delegates, and being found orthodox, shall be received by the Association and manifested by the Moderator giving the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

7. This Association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor to infringe upon any internal rights of the churches.

8. Every motion made and seconded shall be put to vote, unless withdrawn by the one that made it, and a majority shall, in all cases, decide.

9. Every member who speaks in debate shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator.

10. The appellation of Brother or Brethren shall be used in all our addresses to each other.

11. No member shall be permitted to speak more than three times in debate on any subject without leave from the Association.

12. No query shall be taken under consideration by the Association except where serious cases of difficulty are likely to arise which cannot be settled by the church nor by the help of any other churches which she may call upon; and if not settled, she may send it to the Association.

13. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Association.

14. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises.

15. That this Association will not fellowship any church or churches, nor hold them in union, who are engaged in supporting any Missionary, Bible, Tract or Sunday School Union Societies, or advocate State Conventions or Theological Schools, or any other society that has been or may hereafter be founded under the pretense of circulating the Gospel of Jesus Christ; nor correspond with any other Association engaged in or supporting any of the above named Institutions, they being without a "Thus saith the Lord" for them.

16. Any amendment or alteration may be made to these rules as to form of government at any time when a majority of the members of the Association may deem expedient.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

CHURCHES.	DELEGATES' NAMES.	Baptised	Rec'd by Letter	Restored	Rest'd by Restor'n.	Excluded	Dead	Total	Sabbath of Meet'g.	Contributions.
Black Oak	Y. A. Fricks. No letters.							28	2	..
Corinth	J. A. Burk, Willis Thurman	4			2		1	19	1	1.50
Mt. Pleasant	A Graves, J S. Massey, David Carnes	1				5	1	33	2	1 50
Shoal Creek	J. [illegible] Harrison, S. Dowdy, J. A. Walker.	9	4					18	4	1 50
Mt. Zion	J. N. Owens, T. C. Haynes	1		1			1	17	2	2.00
Red Hill	J. B. Franklin, L. Sartin, A Morgan.					1		17	3	1.20
Piny Grove	W. W. Downs William Oliver, J Henderson	1				3		24	4	1 50
Pleasant Hill	Not represented									
Total		16	4	1	2	9	3	156	..	9 20